

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 21 and 39; Claims 2, 17, 22, 37, 40 and 55 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-16, 18-21, 23-36, 38-39, 41-54, and 56-57 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 57.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 2-11, 14-16, 18, 22-31, 34-36, 38, 40-49 and 52-54. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 2, 22 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. More specifically, the limitations as set forth in allowed claims 2, 22, and 40 have been now incorporated into independent claims 1, 21, and 39, respectively. Claims 2, 22, and 40 have also been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

3.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

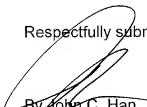
On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 6, 2005

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